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Letter dated 4 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dated 4 August 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

The Federal Government condemns most strongly the latest armed aggression of Croatia against the Serbian people in the Republic of Serbian Krajina, which by its width and ruthlessness exceeds all hitherto acts of aggression committed by Croatia. The massive artillery and missile bombardment of all towns in the Republic of Serbian Krajina demonstrates that one of the main objectives of the aggression is to cause great losses to the civilian population.

Of particular concern is the fact that the general brutal aggression took place at the time of the resumption of direct negotiations on Knin-Zagreb relations, in which the Krajina side expressed the highest readiness for a political solution of the status of Krajina, accepting the agreement proposed by a Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, while the Croatian side arrogantly rejected that proposal.

The aggressive attitude of Croatia confirms the correctness of the constant warnings of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that the presence of the regular armed forces of Croatia in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina constitutes a flagrant violation of the resolutions of the Security Council. Such an attitude of Croatia towards the resolutions of the United Nations and its countenance by the international community constitutes a danger for the efforts to put an end to the crisis in the territories of the former Yugoslavia in a peaceful way and by political means.

The aggression of Croatia against Krajina is a continuation of the practice of the heightening of tension and the escalation of military conflicts whenever there emerge serious prospects for achieving concrete progress in the political solution of the crisis.

The Federal Government recalls that, by accepting the Vance plan, the United Nations has assumed direct responsibility for physical security and the maintenance of peace in the territory of Krajina and considers it duty-bound to oppose Croatia in an outright way and restore the status quo ante within the shortest period of time.

The Federal Government warns that continued countenance of the aggressive behaviour of Croatia would increase conviction in an unequal treatment of the parties in conflict and in a continuation of the policy of double standard by the international community.

The Serbian people in the Republic of Serbian Krajina, exposed to an unprovoked aggression, has a legitimate right to self-defence and it is the duty of the international community to protect it.

The Federal Government demands of the Security Council that it observe consistently its own decisions related to the prohibition of the presence of armed forces of other States in the territory of former Bosnia and Herzegovina and that it take urgent and efficient measures to compel all regular military and paramilitary forces of Croatia to withdraw from the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and the territory of the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

The Federal Government reiterates also on this occasion the firm commitment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to a political solution of all problems of the crisis, including all questions in the relations between Knin and Zagreb.

Proceeding from the assumption that this is the conviction also of the preponderant part of the international community, and above all of the United Nations, the Federal Government demands of the Security Council that it order an urgent cessation of all war operations and that it ensure withdrawal of the Croatian armed forces to the separation lines established by relevant resolutions of the Security Council, as well as that it create conditions for the resumption of negotiations of the two sides.